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**SCAG, SANDAG LEADERS AGREE TO ADVOCATE FOR
KEY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL ISSUES**

TEMECULA, CA -- Leaders representing Southern California's regional planning agencies met Thursday to coordinate efforts on a variety of issues, agreeing to advocate for common priorities in Washington, D.C. Elected officials and senior staff from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) – representing seven Southern California counties and 205 cities – discussed an assortment of issues, from growth visioning initiatives to common interregional transportation investments and border issues.

“It is important that SCAG and SANDAG seek to collaborate on a number of issues given the inter-relationships of the transportation, land use and other planning issues facing both of our regions,” said Brea Mayor and SCAG President Bev Perry. “I was very pleased with the exchange we had today, and we look forward to continued efforts to ensure that our respective efforts help provide for a broader vision of our collective future.”

SCAG presented its efforts to develop a Southwest Compact, a proposal to develop a new east-west trade corridor spanning from Southern California to Texas. In turn, SANDAG sought SCAG's support for its proposed West Coast Corridor resolution. In addition to trade infrastructure priorities, the two agencies discussed their ongoing efforts to more closely examine the important relationships between transportation and land use planning

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“We have a federal mandate to do long-range transportation planning, but with that mandate comes the opportunity to look at how land use correlates with transportation and quality of life benefits that we can achieve by looking at how land use and transportation relate to each other,” said Poway Mayor and SANDAG Vice Chair Mickey Cafagna.

Both agencies reported on their respective efforts to handle future airport demand, and SCAG noted that they plan to collaborate with the San Diego Regional Airport Authority (SDRAA) as well as the Kern County Council of Governments and possibly Santa Barbara in developing a regional airport model. They also discussed how best to continue efforts regarding improvements to the I-15 Freeway, one of the key corridors connecting the regions. The agencies will continue efforts to collaborate on the implementation of these and other transportation improvements in their respective Regional Transportation Plans.

A number of elected leaders from the two agencies attended the meeting, including:

- ❖ Brea Mayor and SCAG President Bev Perry
- ❖ National City Councilmember and SANDAG Chairman Ron Morrison
- ❖ Lake Forest Councilmember Richard Dixon
- ❖ Poway Mayor and SANDAG Vice Chairman Mickey Cafagna
- ❖ Hemet City Councilmember Robin Reeser-Lowe
- ❖ Solana Beach Deputy Mayor and SANDAG Transportation Chair Joe Kellejian
- ❖ Brawley City Councilmember Jo Shields
- ❖ Lemon Grove Mayor and SDRAA Board member Mary Sessom
- ❖ Buena Park City Councilmember Art Brown

The leadership from both regional agencies agreed to continue meeting on a biannual schedule to exchange information, coordinate planning for programs and projects, and collaborate on issues of mutual interest.

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